

Stewardship Commission Reports 1.5 Million Tithe

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — David C. "Bill" Bates, an insurance man from Pineville, La., was re-elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission during the commission's annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Commission members also approved a 1980-81 budget of \$1,690,300 of which \$310,000, or 18.3 percent, is anticipated income from Cooperative Program receipts. Additional income is received through the sale of materials and consultant fees for the "Together We Build" program of capital funding. They also approved a request of up to \$345,000 in Cooperative Program budget funds for 1981-82, an increase of 11.3 percent.

Last year "Together We Build" raised \$30.4 million in pledges for capital projects among local churches. A staff report to commission members indicated that 1.5 million of the 13.2 million Southern Baptists reported in 1978 statistics are titheers.

and that in that year per capita giving was \$141.63.

The report also said that per capita income in the United States as of October 1979 was \$7,495. "It is almost incomprehensible to estimate the gifts Southern Baptists would give to God's work if 13 million of us were to tithe rather than 1.5 million," the report said.

Between 1974 and 1978, the ratio of Cooperative Program contributions from the churches to total gifts was an average of 8.92 percent. The latest statistics from the research department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, however, indicate that ratio was 8.3 percent in 1979.

The report said Southern Baptists must adopt and promote a philosophical and theological basis for Christian stewardship which will include personal, church, associational, state convention and national convention-wide stewardship, world missions through the Cooperative Program, special mission offerings, special financial campaigns, development programs and foundation programs.

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Wrapup

Moral Concerns Group Discusses Resources

By Robert O'Brien
NEW YORK (BP) — Southern Baptists from across the nation spent three days here exploring ways to bring the resources of the Christian faith to bear on the ethical dilemmas of the 1980s.

More than 400 participants heard commentary on the ethical dimensions of hunger, education, economics, family life, race, personal lifestyles, international issues, church-state problems, women's concerns and technology.

But Jimmy R. Allen, closing speaker for the seminar sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, suggested a principle calculated to help his listeners avoid foundering in a sea of complexity with no rudder.

"Disarray without results from spiritual disorder within," declared Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas.

He challenged participants to sidestep the turmoil which issues from "the deadness of a people who call on Christ's name but don't understand his presence." He urged them to realize that God is "working in ways far greater than we can understand."

"We have often made God a Southern Baptist tribal deity and have difficulty understanding him," Allen said.

"Will we be God's children in dealing with these crucial issues or founder futilely amidst them?" he asked, reminding his audience that the Bible records an episode where Jesus wept over his people "missing the moment when God was moving among them."

Allen and other seminar speakers urged the participants to avoid simplistic solutions to complex problems and to deal constructively with difference and difficulty.

"One of the saddest sins of our time is the loss of confidence in other people," said Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

"We see it most often in the cynicism of constant negativism, the impetuous and thoughtless judgmentalism, and a quick, caustic analysis of other people and their motives."

In contrast to God, "we don't trust people, so we surround them with endless legalities," McClellan said.

Noted theologian and church historian Martin Marty declared that if the church is to gear up for the challenge of the 1980s it must avoid several "hazards."

The "hazards," he said, include the "new apocalypticism," simplistic answers espoused by media evangelists, and the "unyielding ideologies" of "Christian militants" who refuse to listen to or cooperate with people of different viewpoints.

A variety of speakers with a variety of perspectives explored what Christian Life Commission Executive Director Foy Valentine called the "life and death ethical issues for the human race."

Participants heard an array of (Continued on page 3)

Missions Applicants Exceed Economics

ATLANTA (BP) — The need for both the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the Cooperative Program was emphasized at the Spring meeting of directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer, said the Home Mission

Board must have funds from both channels of support if it is to operate. About half of the operating budget comes from each fund.

"So far, we have received about two percent of the Annie Armstrong Offering, but the funds we have received represent a 16 percent increase over last year," he said.

Tanner told directors the preliminary receipts were good, despite bad weather in the southeastern United States causing many church services to be cancelled on the first Sunday of the Week of Prayer for Home Missions (March 2).

"I hope the churches will realize the loss of the first Sunday could cut into the offering and will carry on until they reach their goals," Tanner said.

The missions leader noted the goal for the 1980 offering is \$15.5 million. "I am prayerful that the goal will be exceeded," he said. "We desperately need the funds if we are to work toward reaching the goals of Bold Mission Thrust."

Tanner commented on the inroads inflation is making on missions contributions and noted the increasing cost of living, gasoline prices and travel outlay.

He also mentioned the impact of the economic crunch on the appointment of Home Mission Board workers. "This year, we had 123 applicants for the US-2 missions program. Of them, about 70 were approved for appointment. We have funds only to appoint about 25 of them," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

Help Wanted In Venezuela

A crew of eight Mississippians is needed to travel to Venezuela April 20-May 3 to do interior work on housing for the seminary at Los Teques.

Coordinated by the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department, the persons needed include one carpenter, one tile setter (for baths), one concrete mason, two painters, plus two helpers and one cook. The carpenter, tile setters, and mason need to be skilled workers. The cook can be male or female.

Cost of the two week mission trip should not exceed \$640, including \$500 for air fare and \$10 per day for housing and meals.

Volunteers need a passport or a certified birth certificate.

This project was given to Mississippi Baptists by the Foreign Mission Board. Inquiries should be directed to Paul Harrell, director, Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, or phone 354-3704.

Five Fabulous Sundays 5th Week Total: 1,687



An Empty Tomb Speaks The Easter Story

In Jerusalem, the empty garden tomb, claimed by some to be the one where Christ was buried more than 2,000 years ago, is open for Christians to visit. Southern Baptist representatives have been stationed in Israel since 1912 when it was Palestine. (FMB Photo by Fon H. Scofield Jr.)

Joe Triplett Dies At Home In Jackson

Joseph N. Triplett, Sr., minister of pastoral care at First Baptist Church, Jackson, died at his home early last Thursday, March 27, after an extended bout with cancer.

Funeral services were held Saturday at First Baptist Church with pastor Frank Pollard, W. Douglas Hudgins, and Schuyler Batson officiating. Burial was at Greenwood Cemetery at West Point, Miss.

Survivors include his wife, the former Charlotte Jennings VanLandingham of West Point; a daughter, Mrs. D. H. Lauer of Greenwood, Indiana; a son, Joseph N. Triplett, Jr., of Huntsville, Ala.; six granddaughters; three sisters, Mrs. M. E. Hulbert, Jr., of Escatawpa, Miss.; Mrs. Doss Fulton of Jackson, and Mrs. Aaron Stone, Collinsville, Miss.; and one brother, Thomas L. Triplett of Nashville.

Born in Winston County, Miss., Triplett was a graduate of Mississippi College and earned the master of theology degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He attended Yale University's school of alcohol studies and continued theological studies at Southern Seminary. Mississippi Baptist Seminary gave him the honorary doctor of humanities degree in 1968.

Triplett was pastor of Newton's First Baptist Church from 1957-67, just prior to coming to First Church, Jackson. He was pastor of Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church, Blue Mountain from 1964-67.

He served on state convention board's in Maryland, Alabama, and Mississippi and on the executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for several years.

Triplett served on the board of the Mississippi Children's Home Society and was appointed to the Mississippi Children's Code Commission.

In September of 1979, he received the Governor's Distinguished Mississippian Award and more recently re-

ceived the Golden Deeds Award from the North Jackson Exchange Club. Memorials may be sent to Blue Mountain College, Baptist missions, First Baptist Church, Jackson, the Baptist Children's Village, or a charity of choice.

Baptist Beachheads Continue To Be Established In Counties

By Jim Newton

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists had established churches and missions in 82.4 percent of the counties in the United States by the spring of 1979, according to a survey just completed by the Home Mission Board.

Only 542 of the 3,043 counties in the nation do not have a continuing Southern Baptist witness, survey results indicated.

In 209 of these 542 counties, Southern Baptists have established a temporary beachhead with some type of outreach ministry, such as a Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Club, survey, revival or some other approach.

That means there are only 333 counties in the nation, or 10.8 percent, where there has been no Southern Baptist mission outreach.

The survey of directors of missions in counties which have no Southern Baptist mission work was conducted by Clay Price of the Home Mission Board's research division.

The survey disclosed that half of all the unentered counties were in five states, all in the upper midwest section of the nation.

Nebraska and Minnesota had the most counties without a Southern Baptist witness, with 67 counties each. Others were Iowa with 53 unentered counties, Wisconsin with 44, and South Dakota with 40.

Orin D. Morris, director of the board's research division, pointed out that these five states are predomi-

antly rural, and most of the counties without Baptist work are rural.

Some of these counties have populations as small as 200, and most have populations less than 5,000, he said.

Southern Baptists, Morris added, have unique opportunities to begin work in these rural counties because of the denomination's general rural and family orientation.

The survey indicated rapid progress in starting new missions work in counties without a Baptist witness.

In 1973, there were 832 counties without a continuing Southern Baptist ministry. By 1977, that number had decreased to 738. The 1979 figure of 542 means Southern Baptists have entered 196 counties in the last two years.

Quentin Lockwood, director of the rural-urban missions department at the Home Mission Board, hopes that by the end of the 1981-82 church year, Southern Baptists will have entered every county in the nation with some type of ministry.

"We want to do something effective

in every county, not just to mark the chart or color in the map," Lockwood said.

Both Lockwood and James Nelson, director of the board's associational missions division, stressed that the vast majority of new mission points are established, not by missionaries or pastors, but by lay people.

"One of the principal tools the Lord has given by penetrating these counties has been short-term volunteers — Vacation Bible School teams, witness teams, survey teams, and lay people who live in the area," Nelson said.

"It has been rediscovered in Bold Mission Thrust that the greatest resource available for missions is people who will go out in Jesus' name. Sometimes they go for a summer or more, and sometimes for a few days or a week. But they go!"

"Already, during the years of Bold Mission Thrust we have seen more than 2,000 churches established and more than 200 counties entered which had no previous Baptist witness."

Carter Signs Law Tripling Yearly Refugee Admissions

By Stan Hasty

WASHINGTON (BP) — Stating that the United States has a "long tradition as a haven for people uprooted by persecution and political turmoil," President Carter has signed into law a liberalized refugee act.

Carter said the law establishes "a new admissions policy that will permit fair and equitable treatment of refugees, regardless of their country of origin."

The president noted that while in the past most refugee resettlement has

been undertaken by private groups, the large numbers of refugees arriving now dictate that the federal government's role in the effort be expanded.

The new law nearly triples the number of refugees admitted annually to the U. S. from 17,000 to 50,000. Congress will review the new annual limit in three years.

Besides the 50,000 refugees to be admitted, the law allows another 270,000 immigrants to come to the country each year. Immigrants are defined as those who leave their native

lands voluntarily, while refugees are persons forced to leave for a variety of reasons, including war and political and religious persecution.

Another provision of the law permits the president to expand the 50,000 annual limit on an emergency basis after consulting with Congress.

One group not included in the law are Cubans, who under provisions of separate legislation, are being phased out of the refugee program.

Another section of the act includes (Continued on page 2)

Tennessee Baptists Will Aid Belmont Plaza Sale

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Tennessee Baptist Convention has signed \$675,000 worth of guarantees to facilitate the sale of its troubled Belmont Plaza and renters were to begin occupying the 123-unit retirement center in late March.

The guarantees become necessary to enable Belmont Plaza Inc., a group of Baptist laymen, to secure a \$3.5 million mortgage loan from a Nashville bank when the corporation's bond issue proved unsaleable.

Earl Wilson, president of the convention's executive board, blamed the "shaky condition of the board sec-

urities market" for the inability of the Equitable Securities Corporation to sell the bonds. The new bond issue was to have replaced the original issue of \$5 million which was issued by the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation to build Belmont Plaza.

The new loan will be invested in U.S. government securities which will mature on the same dates as the bonds issued by the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation. These securities will be held by the trustee bank and will be used only to retire the original bonds. Therefore, the government securities will be liable for the payment of the old bonds, and not the service corporation, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, nor the convention's executive board.

Because of the wording on the original bond indenture, funds derived from sale of the bonds couldn't be used for operating expenses as understood by the service corporation. So when the complex was completed in February 1979, there were no operating funds and no one could move in.

Tennessee Baptists met in April 1979 in special called convention for the first time since 1874 and voted then to sell or transfer ownership of the building. In November, the convention accepted the offer to buy from Belmont Plaza Inc.

The guarantees to which the Tennessee executive board agreed include \$500,000 which will be reduced in increments as renters occupy the building. No funds will actually be put up, but rather a document of obligation will be prepared, according to Charles Warfield, convention attorney.

Cothen Recovering Following Surgery

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Grady Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, is progressing satisfactorily and is expected to have a complete recovery, following surgery March 28 to remove an abdominal malignancy.

Approximately 70 percent of Cothen's stomach was removed in a three-hour operation but the cancer was confined to the wall of the stomach and no other organs were affected.

His personal physician, Lawrence Grossman, described Cothen's condition as "good."

Cothen was moved to the critical care unit of St. Thomas Hospital several hours after surgery where he was expected to remain for two days.

Cothen, 59, is not expected to resume his duties for at least five weeks. In his absence, Executive Vice President James Clark is acting as chief executive officer of the board.

Perhaps The Bell Told On Him

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (EP) — A 21-year-old Providence man is free on \$1,000 bail after being arraigned in district court here on a charge of possessing stolen property — the 700-pound bell that stood for decades on a wooden platform outside the Natrick Baptist Church in West Warwick.

Stolen last month, the bell, cast in Medway, Mass., in 1845, was recovered last week after detectives searched several junkyards. Charles T. Manning, owner of the yard where the bell was found, said he bought the bell for \$700. The bell is an alloy of bronze, copper and silver.

Tough Love Lifted Him Out Of Cycle Of Despair

By Tim Nicholas

Jackie Smith, of Meridian, a student at the School of Christian Training at New Orleans Seminary wrote a paper on drugs and alcohol and its effects on people. And he didn't have to do any research.

Smith knew about his assigned topic because of his first-hand experiences as a drug abuser and an alcoholic.

From 1969 to 1978, Smith experienced what he called the "total moral decay" of a person who depended on combinations of pills and alcohol to attain "highs," with 17 arrests, many warrants issued in his name, numberless lost days, and suicide attempts.

The road back to normalcy began when he came to a point where he "didn't want to live like I'd been living" and he began getting treatment.

Smith said he felt that staying on that road to recovery can be attributed to Christian love and the ministry of Southern Baptists in the local church and through their cooperative ministries.

Jackie Smith's story begins with his years as a teenager. He dropped out of high school halfway through his senior year and joined the army. "I loved my parents," he recalled. "I just wanted to get out from under their rule and domination."

Offered a discharge because of stomach ulcers, he became a salesman. By age 21 he was a leader in sales, married, had a home, cars and a boat. Then came the beginning of his troubles. "I call it peer pressure. All of my friends were drinking after work," he says. "I was having hangovers in the mornings." Someone gave him some amphetamines. He went to the doctor who prescribed the tranquilizer valium for his nerves. And the cycle had begun.

"Needless to say, the marriage didn't last," he says. "While she was at work I'd be off drinking. I went down fast — had to sell everything." That, he said, is the typical route for abusers.

Mixing

Then, he began to mix amphetamines, barbiturates, and alcohol daily. He would tell himself he could quit anytime. He'd give up all but the barbiturates for a month or two, then back on. He would be arrested for driving while intoxicated or else he'd pass out before he could get home and sleep in his car.

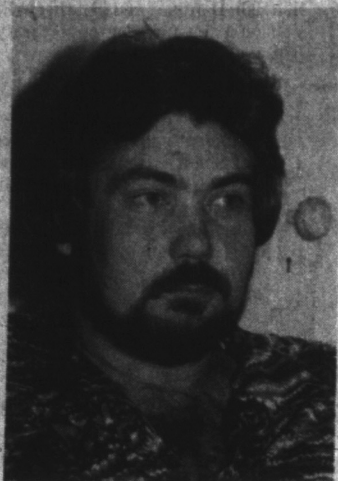
"Your brain is like an onion," says Smith, repeating the drug lecturer's analogy. "Alcohol pierces a few layers," and a person usually passes out. He tricked his system into being able to take more. However, "you can overload this process — become anesthetized and reach a certain point. The next part is death," he said.

Smith said it was a miracle he was never arrested on a felony charge. He said he stole but was never caught. "On numerous occasions I entertained thoughts of armed robbery, but never followed through," he said.

Like other alcoholics and drug abusers, Smith traveled. A number of geographical changes are brought on, he said, by the thought that, "I've messed up here so I need to find a new place." It's part of the "insanity of the disease," he said.

He said he loved to pull the routine with a doctor of saying he was dying of a sick headache. To kill the pain, the doctor would give him a shot of demerol. "a super high," said Smith.

Smith noted that he was not a "hype." "I didn't shoot up all the time. I was a pill head and an alcoholic. Cocaine was out of my league — I'd



Jackie Smith

have had to do armed robbery," he said.

Occasionally someone on the street would knock over a drug store and Smith would buy what he could from the take.

In the course of a few years he used up all his friends by borrowing money and not paying it back. Then he used up his family.

"You've got to imagine how my body and mind must have deteriorated. There were 30 or 40 warrants out for my arrest. Paranoid ain't the word," he said.

At this time he decided to die, a not uncommon desire on the part of the addict he said. He got straight enough to get a prescription for barbiturates and bought pure grain alcohol. Mixing the two, he passed out and would have died had a friend not visited his apartment and found one of the pills, deducing what he had done. The rescue unit was called and he was revived.

Two weeks later he took a 22 caliber rifle and laid it to his head. This time he even wrote a suicide note. With his toe in place, the apartment door swung open and another friend came in and hit him across the head. The gun went off, but missed him.

This time he was placed in a detoxification unit to get the alcohol out of his system. After seven days he left the unit, got drunk again and woke up back in the hospital. He ran again.

Alcoholics Anonymous found out about him and some men visited him, talking about their common problem. He found he could relate to them. "I was actually sober and didn't do drugs for about three months," he said. "This was the first time in six months. I thought I had it made — thought I could socially drink."

Running

But it was worse when he started drinking again. He couldn't handle it. In late 1975 he ran — to Arkansas, South Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana. Smith finally wound up visiting his parents. "They had told me I couldn't continue to do as I had done in their presence." This was in January of 1978. This was where he began a program of recovery.

While visiting his parents, he asked a nurse who was a neighbor of his mother what he could do to get straight. She told him about East Mississippi State Hospital which has an alcohol treatment program. He told her husband if he'd take him, he'd go.

At the hospital he met people who were straight, saw films of the damage that alcohol does to the body, and was introduced to group therapy for the

first time. He said he really thought it was just an alcohol problem. Ten days later, he checked out of the hospital, thinking "I've really got it whipped now."

He stayed straight 28 days and woke up one morning back at the hospital. He escaped back to Jackson, "got put in jail for writing bad checks and defrauding an innkeeper." When he got out of jail he was begging quarters on the street, he recalls.

Jekyll And Hyde

Still dissatisfied with his lifestyle, he called the Chemical Dependency Unit at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center which he had heard about earlier. He told the staffer he needed help. "Yeah, I've got insurance," he lied. "I was like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," he said. They told him to come on in. He doesn't remember going, but woke up a week later in the unit to discover he'd been there two days.

"Little did I know CDU is not a place where they love you back to health," said Smith. He called it an agape love. There, through counseling and group therapy, Smith felt he had to "come clean" with his peers and with himself. He was shown three choices for his life: death, insanity, or recovery.

He chose recovery. CDU chaplain Luther Litchfield, during sessions, "planted a seed that didn't come up until eight months later," said Smith. Litchfield had told Smith that he needed to seek out God who was waiting for him.

Progressing at his own rate of speed, Smith stayed 40 days at the CDU, stayed at a halfway house out of state for a short time and returned to Mississippi to get a job.

After two months of being straight, he got drunk once more and spent 12 days in jail. "Best thing for me," he said. "It reminded me of my decision. I've been straight since then."

In November of 1978, while on jury duty, Smith met Darlene Haggard. "She was different from anything I'd ever known," he said. "We did things Christians would do, something new to me. She told me there's more to it (than going to church); there's salvation, accepting Christ as your personal savior." She went through the plan of salvation with Smith and got him an appointment with her pastor, James Parker, then pastor of Oakland Heights Baptist Church in Meridian (now pastor of First Church, Okolona).

"I laid it out for him," said Smith. "I don't see a thing but that you need salvation," Parker told him. There in the pastor's study, Smith prayed to receive Christ. "It was beautiful. I got up an entirely different person," he recalled.

Adhering to the Alcoholics Anonymous principles taught at CDU, Smith and Darlene began to compile a list of everybody he had wronged and he began contacting them to plan for restitution. Many said to forget the debts. "Let me tell you about real Christian

Jackie Smith phoned the Baptist Record office to say he'd read the sermon on abstinence by Foy Valentine. He said that prompted him to offer to tell about his experiences with drugs and alcohol. We've included also a story on the Chemical Dependency Unit at the Baptist Medical Center, and an interview with Clark Hensley, executive director of the Christian Action Commission.

love," said Smith. "When your sister-in-law comes in and says James, remember Jackie you prayed with?" And then she announces she's going to marry him. Parker's wife and Darlene are sisters," Parker, said Smith, "handled it very Christ-like. He said let's grow together. Her daddy was the same way," said Smith.

True Love

A church deacon, Kenneth Beasley, co-signed a note for Smith. "This is where true Christian love was an aid in my recovery. CDU and a Baptist church took over to water the seed that Luther Litchfield had planted," said Smith.

"They said if God has forgiven you of your past, we're not going to throw it up to you."

Smith and Darlene were married Aug. 11, 1979. And feeling the Lord moving in their lives, made public to the church in October a feeling that they needed to be heading toward fulltime Christian service.

Smith began in January of this year at the School of Christian Training at New Orleans Seminary, working full time on the staff at East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian as a psychiatric aide on the alcohol and drug unit.

With school duties needing more time, both have turned in resignations from their jobs (she teaches English and Latin) effective in May to go to

New Orleans so Smith can avoid the long trips.

He intends to have a pulpit ministry some day, he said. For now, he, Darlene and Jim Follis, an alcohol program treatment specialist at East Mississippi State Hospital, arrange for weekend seminars in churches. They recently had a three day program at First Church, Slaughter, La., with a number of other churches participating.

Follis, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, has a master of counseling psychology degree. He feels that Baptists are "waking up" to this kind of need.

Smith said that a person can recognize symptoms of one who is getting addicted and can help. "The church is waking up to the fact that a lot of their people are in treatment centers and suffering from drug addiction."

"I'm glad they are accepting people like me to share 'an ounce of prevention.'"

Smith said it's time Baptists took the problem of drug and alcohol addiction out of the closet and to realize that taking 10 tranquilizers a day will lead to greater problems.

"If I can get my message to one person a month to keep them from going through what I've been through," he said, "It will be worth it."

Smith can be contacted for the lecture series and 5715 5th Street, Meridian, 39301; phone (601) 483-8334. Or through New Orleans Seminary.

"We Help Them Hold On Till The Holy Spirit Can Take Over"

By Tim Nicholas

Luther Litchfield, chaplain of the three and a half year old 54-bed Chemical Dependency Unit at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center says that the look of the place can deceive.

"If you come through observing — you wouldn't see it being spiritual," he says. "It boils down to we help them hold on till the Holy Spirit can take over."

Litchfield was talking about the ministry of the unit which exists to get people out from under dependency on alcohol and other drugs and to keep them out.

Litchfield says he wasn't taught anything in seminary about treating alcoholics, but he worked some with alcoholics during his 27 years as a pastor. "I thought if I could get that person in the church, get them involved, then automatically everything was going to be all right," he said. But almost invariably, "they reverted back."

He says he didn't understand the disease. "It's spiritual, emotional, physical — it covers the whole being. Every area of the person is affected," he says.

"Most of our patients don't know they're alcoholics when they come in. The average person thinks an alcoholic is on skid row," he says.

Instead, the unit sees a cross section of the populace — surgeons, lawyers, carpenters, housewives, Baptist preachers, priests. "For so long some

of us Baptists have looked at it as a sin and we really haven't done much with it," he says. "Now we have a program and some people are getting better."

"We have had people who taught Sunday School until the week or two weeks before they come in here," says Litchfield. He notes that about 95 percent of the patients at CDU are members of some church. "A lot realize something is not right. They pray more and feel it's not being answered. They begin to fear God has moved out of their lives," he says.

With most, it's not getting them to acknowledge God, but to get them back to God," he says.

Litchfield says his chaplaincy work at CDU "has no resemblance to a chaplain at a regular hospital." He explains that his job is not necessarily to combat depression among the patients, but to help them identify where they stand.

His job deals primarily with what is called moral inventory. "I try to find out where they are spiritually. It's planting some ideas," he says.

Though most patients are admitted through pressure from family, employers, or by court order, they can leave any time. Cost is the same as regular hospital care. Insurance often covers the same way. A thorough physical accompanies detoxification (the removal of alcohol from the system).

Litchfield says that those who have been taking combinations of drugs and



Luther Litchfield

alcohol take longer in "detox." "One of the worst drugs we have here is valium, it's so widely prescribed," says Litchfield.

The program includes the assigning of a counselor to each patient. The counselor confronts them with their drinking and helps with family or employer counseling. Two hours each day are spent in group therapy and three lectures each day by staffers offer information about the aspects of the disease and about recovery.

They write a "drunkalog" — the

story of their drinking. Success stories of how others have stopped are circulated. No phones or television are on the ward. Besides counseling for families, there is an aftercare program in a number of cities around Mississippi.

The Alcoholics Anonymous theory has 12 steps which an alcoholic can follow back to sobriety. Basically, they consist of admitting that the alcoholic can't manage his own life and needs to let God take over. The result of this is spiritual growth.

"The idea," says Litchfield, "is strict honesty." Until then the alcoholic is not going to get much better.

Litchfield and other staffers at CDU are available for church groups or pastors' conferences to talk about the problems of and programs for alcoholism and drug abuse.

There is also an alumni group, about 400 strong, which sends speakers to schools and civic groups. All are anxious to get up before people to prevent others from having to go through what they did.

By the time some of the patients get to CDU, they "are really searching for something," says Litchfield. They find love — tough love — the kind that says "I care enough to get involved with you."

"So many of us have gotten love mixed up with something on a Valentine's card," says Litchfield. He adds, "It's amazing to see the fear and hate turn into genuine caring."

Kenya Baptists 'Trade' Half Acre For Nineteen

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — The Baptist mission of Kenya has signed a contract selling the half-acre of industrial land in Nairobi and providing for purchase of a 19-year plot on the city outskirts.

In addition to paying for part of the new Baptist land, the industrial plastics firm which bought the old site agreed to rebuild Baptist communication and Baptist education facilities.

firm the room it needs to expand.

Besides the new communications and publications buildings, the mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and the Baptist Convention of Kenya plan to build mission and convention offices and some residences on the new property, said Laura Lee Stewart, Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Kenya.

Missions Applicants

(Continued from page 1)

Tanner added: "Without the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, we would have to cut our work in half. And, because of the economy, we are currently funding more of our program with Annie Armstrong funds than with the Cooperative Program."

During the meeting, directors elected Howard Cockrum as chairman and approved 46 persons for mission service during their March meeting.

Cockrum, a contractor and land developer and Baptist deacon from Knoxville, Tenn., succeeds Robert L. Deneen of Darlington, S. C.



Coleman and Langworthy

Music Festival Winners Named

Winners of \$150 college scholarships

Pastors Are Now Asking For Drug Information

By Tim Nicholas

Clark Hensley, executive director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, says his office answers inquiries every day from some pastor wanting information or material on alcoholism or drug abuse.

Many pastors who have church members or community members who are having difficulties with al-

tim of some kind of drug abuse and have used some kind of chemical crutch before conversion, we are quite prone under certain pressures to repeat the process," he says.

He tells the story of a man who had been an alcoholic for about 25 years, and took an early retirement after being saved. He wanted to be of help to young people. "He was admitted to one of our seminaries to sharpen his counseling techniques," says Hensley. The

Moral Concerns Group Discusses Resources

(Continued from page 1)

speakers, and asked them questions in areas such as:

Church-State: "The self-interest of some religious groups in getting government money has made them abandon their zeal for separation of church and state," said John Swomley, professor of Christian ethics at St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City. "Some religious groups, notably Baptists, Quakers, Seventh Day Adventists and Jews, learned long ago that the fewer privileges they ask for or accept for themselves from government, the less government intrusion."

Hunger: The world, said hunger expert Frances More Lappe, will solve the "outrage of needless hunger" only when individuals take greater responsibility to cut through the myths and take effective action. She debunked a "myth" that scarcity is the cause of hunger. The problem, she said, is that of increasing concentration of control over food into the hands of fewer and fewer people from the village level to the level of international trade.

Race: "Blacks have come a long way (in achieving liberty) but we still have a long way to go," said Benjamin Hooks, NAACP executive director and ordained Baptist minister. Noting that 50 percent of black children still attend schools as integrated as those in 1954, he said, "Sadly churches have joined the movement (to keep schools segregated), not for religious reasons, but because they don't believe in integration."

Personal lifestyles: "We need people who will understand the violence that we (the American society) reverse and see it as the ultimate human degradation," said former U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who urged ending the glorification of violence, and called for handgun control.

International issues: "The selfishness of sovereign states — large and small" — causes the breakdown of world peace, said UN Secretary Gen-

eral Kurt Waldheim, who urged the religious community to continue efforts toward peaceful solutions of world problems.

In other sessions environmentalist Barry Commoner discussed energy; Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey, education; Christian social ethicist J. Philip Wogaman, economics; White House Conference on Families chairman Jim Guy Tucker, families; presidential assistant Sarah Weddington, women's issues; and author, educator, inventor, philosopher and architect Buckminster Fuller, technology and ethics.

The 85-year-old Fuller struck a theme of the conference, urging Southern Baptists to cope with the ethics of modern technology by daring to be "brave enough and naive enough to love and to trust."

With the technology available to destroy humankind, he said, the decade of the 1980s holds an awesome challenge for global society. "In the next 10 years, we're going to find out whether humankind is going to stay on this planet."

Southern Baptists Lead In Gifts To Bible Society

The Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant body in the U.S., again led the way in denominational giving to the American Bible Society last year with contributions totalling \$286,199.

However this was \$22,488 less than their 1978 figure of \$308,688, a record breaking amount that for the first time topped the \$300,000 mark through regular contributions.

The United Methodist Church gave \$107,090, and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod gave \$104,391.

churches to send adult counselors (21 years old) with groups of young people under 18 years of age. If the group includes both boys and girls, a counselor of the same sex will be required for each seven girls (or portion thereof) and for each seven boys (or portion thereof).

Sarah Talley, coordinator of the conference, urges interested groups to "register early. Last year the Young Musicians' Conference reservations were full by May. Several groups had to be placed on a waiting list." Mrs. Talley may be contacted at the Church Music department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, for further information about the conference.

Reservation requests must be mailed directly to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571. A brochure about Gulfshore, which includes a reservation request form, is available from the Assembly and/or the Church Music Department.

Historical Society Event Will Focus On Theology

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Theology and theologians and their roles in Southern Baptist history will be the theme of the joint annual meeting here of the denomination's Nashville, Tenn.-based Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society, April 29-30.

The event will begin at 8:45 a.m., on Tuesday, April 29, in the Lecture Hall at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, with Walter B. Shurden, Commission chairman and professor of church history at Southern, as president. The joint meeting will include a diversity of well-known theologians, including James M. Wall, editor of *The Christian Century*, and business sessions of the Commission and Society. Wall will be the first keynote speaker and will speak on "Images of Southern Baptists in Contemporary America."

Then Southern Seminary President Duke K. McCall will address the group on "The Role of Southern Seminary in the SBC."

Morgan W. Patterson, dean of academic affairs at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, will then follow with an address on "The Southern Baptist Theologian As Controversialist."

The Tuesday morning session will conclude with a luncheon address on "The Role of the SBC (Southern Bap-



Hallway Library

Margaret Autry, volunteer library worker at First Baptist Church, Louisville, works in the hall of the church. That's where they put the library. Instead of some out of the way corner room in the church, the library is in a hall alcove and cannot be avoided by passersby. Ms. Autry says that seems to increase the use of the library greatly. Mrs. W. H. Hight is church librarian.

HMB Assigns Assistant, Spiritual Awakening

ATLANTA (BP) — Spiritual awakening will receive increased attention through assignment of a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staffer to focus on preparation for awakening.

Glenn L. Sheppard Jr., director of the department of personal evangelism, was named by the board to become special assistant in spiritual awakening.

Sheppard, 36, has been at the agency since Jan. 1, 1979, coming from the pastorate of Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga.

"We have been concerned with the need for a genuine spiritual awakening for some time," said C. B. Hogue, director of the evangelism section. "There's a growing interest in and concern for spiritual awakening."

To focus attention on awakening, Hogue asked directors to create a new position, and to consolidate the jobs of director of personal evangelism and director of witness training.

Howard Ramsey, currently director of witness training, will become director of the combined responsibility, working in both personal evangelism and witness training.

"These changes will highlight the need for greater visibility and catalytic action for awakening and also strengthen the department of personal evangelism," Hogue added.

The emphasis on spiritual awakening will not be done through specific programming, according to Sheppard. "To propose programs would be to presuppose that an individual or group could program the sovereign work of God in spiritual awakening," he said. "Therefore, the key effort will center in climatization through prayer," he said.

"I believe we're cresting toward spiritual awakening," he added. "I extend a call to all Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christians to join in united, concerted, extraordinary prayer for God to send another great awakening."

The shift in the evangelism section was one of three reorganizations approved by directors during their

spring board meeting. Directors also okayed title and job responsibility changes in the language missions and chaplaincy divisions.

"In the summer meeting of directors, language missions was elevated from a department to a division. At that time, a review of the structure was requested," said Oscar Romo, division director.

The study recommended realignments in job responsibilities. Previously staffers were assistant directors. Under the realignment, James N. Lewis Jr. is associate director; Ramon Martinez, director of ethnic resource correlation; Rodney M. Webb Jr., director of multi-ethnic ministries; Hubert O. Hurt, director of trans-cultural outreach, and Fermin Whittaker, director of ethnic church growth.

In the chaplaincy division, the titles and job descriptions were altered to redefine the responsibilities of each job. Previously, each staffer carried the title of associate director.

Under the change approved by directors, Carl Hart will remain division director; Pat Davis will become director of military chaplaincy and Huey Perry will be director of institutional chaplaincy. One vacant position will become director of hospital and business-industrial chaplaincy.

N. O. Pastors' Conference Is Set For May 19-23

The 18th Annual Pastors' Conference of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is set for May 19-23.

The week-long meeting, geared for all church staff members and denominational workers, will feature studies on the Old and New Testaments, sessions on counseling and church growth, and a conference for pastor's wives.

Featured program guests will be Bernard Spooner, director of the Texas Baptist Sunday School division of John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., and president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Seminary faculty members on the program are T. J. Delaughter, professor emeritus of Old Testament and Hebrew, Ray Robbins, professor of New Testament and Greek, Harold Rutledge, professor emeritus of psychology and counseling, and Genter Stephens, professor emeritus of Church Music.

For more information, write to Billy Simmons at the seminary, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, La., 70126, or call (504) 282-4455.

Blue Mountain Ministers' Day Will Be April 11

Blue Mountain College Ministerial Alumnae Day will be held on April 11, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. This is planned as a day of fellowship, business, and inspiration for the ministerial students and graduates of BMC.

The day will begin with registration at 9 a.m. Chapel will follow at 10. The annual business session will complete the mornings activities, with lunch provided in the Ray Dining Hall on campus.

The highlight of the day will be a challenge presented by Bill Causey, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

All the men are invited to join in the golf tournament at Ripley Country Club, especially for the ministerial students.

A letter is being sent to all BMC graduates concerning this day. Write or call Jim Futral, Amory, or Tommy Vinson, Corinth, or Wayne Marshall, Corinth, for more details.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Spain May Soon Send Missionaries To Guinea

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands (BP) — The efforts of a Baptist church in Las Palmas have focused attention of Spanish Baptists and Southern Baptists on a new missions opportunity in Equatorial Guinea.

J. D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said negotiations are underway to consider whether Spanish Baptists or Southern Baptists will take the lead in establishing mission work there.

It would be the first foreign missions project for Spanish Baptists if their union of churches decides to send workers to the West African nation, which was under Spanish rule until 1968.

Las Palmas Baptist Church became involved in the project around Christmas when a woman in its congregation told of the need for food, clothing and medicine she had witnessed during a recent trip to Equatorial Guinea.

Benedicta Aleman wept as she told the group, "We simply cannot imagine it. Those poor people have nothing. Many have scarcely seen bread. Many have never drunk milk."

Miss Aleman, founder and director of two large private schools in Las Palmas, urged her students awaiting gifts from the wise men in early January to put out an extra shoe for the children of Guinea. (Spain has a tradition that the wise men visit children during the night of the sixth of January bringing gifts just as they did when visiting Bethlehem centuries before; several countries follow variations of this custom.)

Members of the Las Palmas congregation, soon joined by other evangelical congregations, immediately began to collect food and clothing, according

As the purse is emptied the heart is filled. — Victor Hugo

to Indy (Mrs. Charles W.) Whitten, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in the Canary Islands.

MUW Is Site For Conference On Choosing A Career

Alice Magill and J. C. Mitchell will be among the leaders of a special conference on choosing a career to be held April 26 at Mississippi University for Women at Columbus.

Ms. Magill is vocational guidance specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Mitchell is director of missions for Lowndes, Oktibbeha, and Clay counties.

The program is designed for college and high school students, plus young adults. It will offer guidance in career planning in light of Christian discipleship.

Bill Hardy, minister of education for First Church, Columbus, will discuss job satisfaction. Ms. Magill will lecture on "Where will you be in the year 2000?" Mitchell will lead in Bible study and in the topic of living out Christian discipleship through one's work.

Leon Emery, who directs the Church Administration / Pastoral Ministries department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will discuss "How God has led me in my Career Decisions."

The program begins at 9 a.m., and runs through 4 that afternoon. For more information, write Leon Emery, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

SENIOR ADULT SEMINAR

April 21-23, 1980

Baptist Building, Jackson

1:30 Monday until 12:00 noon Wednesday

Resources

HORACE L. KERR AND GARY HAUKE, Supervisor and Consultant, Senior Adult Section, Family Life Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee. Kerr is author of *How To Minister To Senior Adults In Your Church*, a 1980 Broadman release which will be used as printed resource for the seminar.

Content

- The Aging Process and the Senior Adult
- Organizing For Effective Ministry
- The Many Faces of Senior Adults
- Creative Programming
- Resources For Senior Adults
- Motivating, Reaching, and Leading Senior Adults
- Motion Pictures Relating to Senior Adult Ministry
- Planning A Club Program For A Year
- The Role of a Senior Adult Consultant
- Senior Adults: Vocation / Avocation / Calling / Profession?
- Moving From Meetings To Ministries
- Older Persons: A Continuing Challenge
- Discovering Interests, Needs and Talents
- Evaluating Some Local Programs

Who Should Attend?

Any person (pastor, other staff person, volunteer worker) who is functioning as leader of a senior adult program or who has been assigned the task of leading or beginning a week-day ministry with senior adults.

Registration Procedure

An advance registration fee of \$15.00 is required. Checks should be made payable to "Senior Adult Seminar" and mailed to Kermit S. King, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Each registrant is responsible for making his/her own arrangements for lodging and eating in Jackson.

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Odle Family Expresses Appreciation

The members of the family of Dr. Joe Odle wish to take this means of expressing their sincere appreciation for cards, letters, calls, flowers, memorials, and words of comfort and concern that have come from so many people.

We wish we could write to each one personally. Please know that we are grateful for every thoughtful deed and for your prayers on our behalf.

May God bless you everyone.

Mabel Odle

A number of inquiries have come to the Baptist Record concerning information on memorials for Dr. Odle. For those who are interested in designations of memorials in his name, the family has suggested Mississippi College, the Hawaii Baptist Academy, or some other favored institution or charity. The address of Hawaii Baptist Academy is 2429 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. —Editor

Birthday Prayer Calendar For MKs (Margaret Fund Students)

April 15—Jane Hamrick (Italy), Mississippi University for Women

April 17—Anita Kolb (Brazil), Mississippi College

Southwestern Adopts Budget, Elects New Faculty Members

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a \$9.6 million budget and elected seven new faculty members during their spring meeting.

The budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year is a 14 percent increase over the current \$8.4 million budget and includes salary increases of up to 15 percent for faculty and staff.

According to Russell H. Dilday Jr., seminary president, 69 percent of the new budget will be used for educational instruction. The Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program will provide 56 percent of the total.

The trustees elected five new faculty in theology, and one each in religious

education and church music.

Thomas V. Brisco, 31, was elected instructor of biblical backgrounds.

Guy Greenfield, 47, was selected professor of Christian ethics with tenure effective May 15.

Dan G. Kent, 44, is a new associate professor of Old Testament.

William Kirkpatrick, 41, was elected associate professor of theology with tenure effective Aug. 1.

Robert Bryan Sloan Jr., 31, of Roscoe, Texas, was elected instructor of theology.

Robert Raus, 48, will become associate professor of church recreation.

Charles David Keith, 31, was elected to the fulltime faculty as assistant pro-

fessor of conducting.

Granted tenure were L. Russ Bush III, assistant professor of philosophy of religion; Al Fasol, assistant professor of preaching; Tom J. Nettles, assistant professor of church history; and Ebbie C. Smith, associate professor of Christian ethics and missions. Nettles is the son of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Staffer Clyde Nettles.

During his report to trustees, Dilday announced that preliminary planning for the seminary's new learning resources center was still in the design stage.

Cost estimated from architects were about \$12 million, Dilday said, or \$5 million above initial projections. The architects are revising the plans to meet the \$7.8 million costs approved by trustees in October 1979.

He also announced the appointment of R. Cal Guy, Bottoms Professor of Missions, as founding director of the new World Missions/Church Growth Center being established on the seminary campus.

Guy will serve for an initial one-year period and assist in the organization of the center's program and the selection of a permanent director.

Trustees also authorized a \$950,000 endowment for operation of the new learning resources center. The endowment was a gift from the Ida M. Bottoms Trust which the seminary received in January.

Southeastern Buys Fire Truck For Town

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP) — Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a \$3.5 million budget for 1980-81, elected Paul Fletcher of Marion, Ala., as business manager, agreed to buy a fire truck for the town of Wake Forest, and voted to renovate historic Lea Laboratory.

The new budget, allocated a major share of the \$398,000 increase over 1979-80 to faculty and administrative salaries in an effort to offset skyrocketing living expenses.

The major source of income for the seminary, the Cooperative Program of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, will provide \$2,510,557, or 71 percent of the budget.

seminary-connected families and seminary property valued in excess of \$10 million. The action continues a 29-year tradition of cooperation between the town and Southeastern Seminary. Funds for the project will come from rental income and investments.

Renovation of historic Lea Laboratory was projected several years ago when the trustees adopted a master campus plan. The structure, built in 1888 and now unoccupied, will house administrative offices and provide a meeting hall. Cost of the project is not to exceed \$500,000 with work to begin this spring. Funding is already available through gifts of \$200,000 from the Broyhill Foundation and \$100,000 from the Kresge Foundation, an allocation from the Southern Baptist Convention, and gifts from alumni and friends.

Listed on the national register of historic buildings, Lea Lab was the first building on a southern college campus designed exclusively for the study of science. It is also reputed to have been the first building in the nation in which undergraduates studied biology with the aid of a microscope. Its preservation will dramatize the 146-year tradition of Baptist educational efforts on the campus, until 1956 the home of Wake Forest University.

The trustees received a report that after the first 12 months of its 36-month \$3.5 million capital and endowment needs campaign the halfway mark of \$1.75 million had been surpassed.

Four Mississippi women who have taken part in short term mission projects were interviewed during the WMU Convention in Laurel. They were Juanita Schilling, Simpson County; Frances Thomas, Chickasaw County; Anona Stewart, Yalobusha County; and Elizabeth Davis, Walthall County. Each of the four is WMU director for her association.

'Wilda Fancher, who interviewed the four, and her husband James recently completed a series of volunteer mission projects in Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines. Mrs. Fancher is secretary to the executive director of Mississippi WMU.

The four interviews followed the four-part theme of the convention: Concerned, Called, Committed, Commissioned.

Fletcher, director of development at Judson College, will succeed O. L. Cross, who is retiring on July 31. Fletcher, a native of McLean, Va., is a graduate of Wake Forest University and former vice president of the investment banking and brokerage firm of Hornblower and Week-Hemphill Noyes. He began April 1.

In a move to develop further its community services partnership, the trustees voted to purchase a 1,000 gallon-per-minute pumper for the Wake Forest Volunteer Fire Department. The pumper, which costs \$75,917, is on order and will be paid for over a seven-year period. It will improve the fire protection of the town which includes more than 300

houses. The pumper will be used to fight fires in the town and on the campus. The new pumper will be used to fight fires in the town and on the campus. The new pumper will be used to fight fires in the town and on the campus.

Interviewed At WMU Convention

Four Women Give Enthusiastic Reports of Short Term Volunteer Mission Projects

and the Philippines. Mrs. Fancher is secretary to the executive director of Mississippi WMU.

The four interviews followed the four-part theme of the convention: Concerned, Called, Committed, Commissioned.

Ecuador

Frances Thomas and her husband went to Ecuador in early 1979, with a group from Grenada County. She helped the missionary, Dottie Gilbert, with cooking for men who were building a school.

They flew in a light plane (air service by Texaco for their employees) to Lago Agrio.

Indians ferried them across a large river, in canoes. The first night of the revival four Indians were converted. (The Indian who manned the Thomases' canoe was lost on the way over, and saved on the way back.)

Mrs. Thomas said she experienced several miracles. One was protection from insect bites. "I have diabetes and insect bites have often caused problems. Mrs. Carter Dobbs came home from Ecuador covered with mosquito bites. People were praying for me. 'I did not get one bite on the entire trip!'"

While the church building was going on Frances and Dottie cooked for 10 to 12 people, three meals a day — "the hungry men ate a lot — and we cooked from scratch. Nothing pre-packaged or frozen, or canned, except tuna. We made our own breads, pastries and everything, the hard way. Even chocolate by the block and staples in barrels.

Jeff Murphy, a devotions committee member, later admitted, "The last 30 minutes of the fast was the hardest. I didn't think I was going to make it."

Paytha Williams, also a committee member, expressed her opinion: "The fast was an awful experience, but I'm sure the result of the campaign will be worth many times our efforts."

One of the faculty members, Larry Rouse, told his students of his first hand encounters with hunger and starvation in Korea. "Starving children were everywhere. Little kids with bloated bellies, almost unable to walk, would come up to you begging for something to eat."

While the committee members were fasting, the whole student body wasted no time in fulfilling the rest of the project. In fact, the students became so enthusiastic that the campaign was extended an extra day. When the funds were finally counted at the end of the third day, Stone High School with a student enrollment of just over 600 had amassed \$409.44. The campaign had been a wonderful success. In the words of one student, "No matter what many may say, we have proven here that America still cares."

Stone County Youths Fast For A Day, Give Money to World Hunger Fund

Note: The Baptist Record received a news note from the Foreign Mission Board about Stone High School students' contribution to its world hunger fund. Following is a story of the campaign that took place in Wiggins last fall.

Mrs. Mike Cain, teacher at the school and sponsor of the Devotions Committee, said, "Our club, the Devotions Committee, is an outstanding group of Christian young people. The purpose of the club is 'Let Others See Jesus In Us.' Believe me, they take this aim seriously. They are sincere and hard working. Their lives are constant Christian witnesses."

She added, "When they decided on this project, they became so enthusiastic in their concern for the starving of the world that their enthusiasm was contagious. The other students responded eagerly. At the end of the project the members were proud — of their fellow classmates and of themselves. The entire school seemed to receive the warmth and happiness that can come only through giving."

"John says in his article that 'we have proven that America still cares.' More specifically, we have proven that young people, when given the opportunity, eagerly and unselfishly give of themselves."

By John Breland, Editor "The Cat's Meow"

Stone High School, Wiggins

It was a special Thanksgiving for the students of Stone High School in Wiggins. The Devotions Committee, a religious club at school made up of 28 young people who are members of different churches in the county, met to discuss ideas for Thanksgiving week. Instead of the usual basket of food for a needy family, they wanted to do something that would involve the entire student body.

In previous weeks news of the pitiful conditions of the Cambodian people — especially the children — had been playing on the heart strings of Americans, so the members of the club suggested that they should do something, no matter how small, to help alleviate world hunger. They wanted to give all the students an opportunity to share with others.

The night before the campaign was to begin, the members of the group met at school to make final preparations. They covered cans to collect money and made posters explaining what they wanted each student to do — simply skip a meal and give the price of that meal to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's World Hunger Fund. The next day posters were hung, canisters were distributed to each class room, and the two-day campaign began.

However, the members of the group were not satisfied with giving only money. They wanted to sacrifice something. Carol Rogers, vice president of the group, suggested that the



Mr. Chambers' sixth period economics class put donations in the can after he jokingly asked them for "a minute of their time and a quarter of their money."



Members of the Devotions Club at Stone High School, Wiggins, made posters for the campaign to help alleviate world hunger.



Members of the Devotions Committee at Stone High School, Wiggins, left to right, lower to top: Susie Walker, Roger Taylor, Monica Coole, Tim Bond, Sheila Warren, Ann Rayburn, Michelle Bond, Jan Alsworth, Susan Swilley, Blake Davis, Carol Rogers, Vernon Bunch, Debbie Freche, Sarah Bond, Vince Pachel, Rita King, Sammi Buckley, Angie Stamps, Jeff Murphy, Kelli Sherman, Paytha Williams, Tonia Sellers, Angela LeBlanc, Grace Walker, Mike Cain, sponsor, Shirley Simpson, (Not pictured, Linda Lott, Debbie Bond).

Southern Seminary Sets Luncheon

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A gala national luncheon for alumni and friends of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, in the Grand Ballroom of Stouffer's Riverfront Towers Hotel in St. Louis, Mo., headquarters hotel for the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10-12.

To order tickets, mail \$7.25 in a self-addressed stamped envelope to: National Luncheon, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40206. Make checks payable to Southern Seminary.

Broadcasters

(Continued from page 4)

are not all charlatans. We suppose that few are. And we know that dealings with the government bring about more regulations and paper work than it is profitable to try to keep current.

If radio deregulation comes about, it is very possible that the deregulation of the television industry will not be far behind. The fact of the matter is, however, that television is already deregulated in practice. There are no controls on the networks, and that is where the programs are fashioned. The results are frightening.

That brings us back to the starting place. The local stations are the local business people. If we will let them know our desires, the broadcasters say, they will respond as indicated. The Baptists who have been interviewed over the past few days were mighty convincing at that point.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Four Mississippi women who have taken part in short term mission projects were interviewed during the WMU Convention in Laurel. Left to right, top photo, are Juanita Schilling, Frances Thomas, Anona Stewart, and Elizabeth Davis. Wilda Fancher, at right in bottom photo, conducted the interviews. She is shown with Mrs. Davis. In the background are Mrs. P. C. Perkins of Clinton, chairman of the Nominating Committee for state WMU officers; James M. Young, missionary doctor stationed in Yemen; and Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU.

VIEWPOINT

The Almost People

By Joel E. Haire, Consultant, Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The word "almost" can be used as an expression of disappointment and failure. Disappointment comes to a student who almost makes a good grade. Feelings of failure can grip members of a baseball team when they almost won the big game. What a discouraging experience when marriage partners go their separate ways saying, "Our marriage almost worked."

Church members who decide to camp in the "almost" territory can find a relationship to their church that is less than they want it to be. They almost attend enough to be counted faithful but not quite. The church needs more good leadership, and they almost qualify if they were only willing to dedicate themselves to Christian growth and maturity. These people find themselves in the uncomfortable position of being on the outer edge of church life when they know God wants them at the center.

Christians miss the real joy of giving when they take an almost attitude. Such an attitude can be expressed in relation to tithing. It conveys the idea that tithing is impossible and almost tithing is all one can afford at the present time. I believe it is easier to tithe than it is to almost tithe. There is a sense of joy for the Christian in doing what he knows God's word tells him to do. God will enable us to do what He leads us to do in giving and in all areas of life. The Christian who believes he can give all God wants him to give is developing a positive attitude toward Christian living.

Those whose churches have entered a Church Building Fund Campaign have been blessed with joyous opportunities for increased giving. New levels of sacrificial giving over and above the tithe have brought testimony after testimony reflecting deeper commitment to generous Christian living. This is one example of what can happen to us individually when we give sacrificially to Christ who gave His very life for us.

Giving through the church to mission needs is a rewarding venture. At a time when the cost of supporting our worldwide mission work is soaring, it is exciting to know that God will enable us to meet these needs. Sacrificial mission giving is one of the Christian's finest privileges.

There is a great distance between almost tithing and the freedom experienced in giving beyond the tithe. Some say they cannot afford to tithe. Some say they can only afford to tithe. Others have entered the exciting adventure of consistently giving more.

SCRAPBOOK

When Calvary Came On Easter Morn

On floody Easter seven nine,
No time for thoughts of bread and wine,
We found ourselves quite sore distressed,
For muddy Pearl had reached its crest,
And like a wild and ravenous beast
Which from its cage has been released,
Surged forth to claim our homes and stores,
Our clothes, our food and things by scores.
On these we placed our hopes secure —
Our goods and homes would long endure!
But now they rot beneath the mud
Of naughty Pearl's destructive flood.
Our eyes are filled with burning tears
And hearts o'ercome with nameless fears,
For, as it seemed on Calvary's Hill,
Death reigned supreme while life was still.

Those Other Marys

"I cannot go, but I will send
This precious ointment by a friend;
He will not know,"
They might have said,
"But since it's kind, I'd like
to get it off my mind."
And so, had they
When in the tomb, our Saviour lay
The spices to another given,
Another would have heard, not they
"HE IS NOT HERE; HE'S RISEN."
—Valerie Boyd Howell
Ripley

Proof

Broken are the bonds of death
That held Him in the tomb,
Shattered are the chains of sin
That kept the world in gloom.
Rolled back is the stone
That tried to hold God's Son.
Empty are the linen graveclothes —
Proof of the victory He had won.

—Winford McInnis
Pittsboro

The Center Cross

Three crosses on a hill
Silhouetted the sky;
On the left and on the right
Hung criminals, about to die.
The center cross
That's where I
And you
Should have been.
But Jesus took our place
And paid our debt in full.

He left an empty tomb, and
Waits to fill our hearts
With love and grace.
Have you thanked Him
For the center cross?

—Ruby Singley
Columbia

Then came our Resurrection Morn
Enabling us all this to score.
For Christ the Lord stood there so bright,
When in the midst of that dark night
We found ourselves the objects dear
Of Christian love and Easter cheer.
Behold an army round us stood
With zeal to help, with clothes and food.
Our friends and churches, government
And institutions to us lent
Their strength for our encouragement.
And all of this, we're sure, was sent
To say to us, "Our Lord's alive!
Forevermore you will survive!
Look up, move on, your loss surmount,
For God's sure gifts are all that count."

—Clarence H. Cutrell
Jackson

Remember Me

What does Easter mean to you
When it comes round each year?
Does it mean new clothes to wear
Or that springtime is here?

Don't you remember Jesus Christ
Who died upon the tree
Because He loved us all so much
And wants us to be free?

He did not stay upon that cross
Or in the grave, Oh no —
From His throne he pleads,
"Don't you remember me?"

—Helen Byars Tullos,
Philadelphia

Parting

The time has come, dear one, to part —
We go our separate ways.
The joys we've known will keep our hearts
Through silent empty days.
Like wintry earth in silence sleeps
Until the dawn of spring.
Our hearts will resurrected be
The day we meet again.

—Marnie W. Lenaz
Gulfport

Victory

Christ bore his cross to Calvary;
He didn't once complain;
He braved up Calvary's hill;
His eyes were filled with pain.

They nailed Him to a treacherous cross
And hung Him there on high;
They pierced his side and spat on Him
And watched Him slowly die.

"Father forgive them," He prayed.
"They know not what they do."
In all His pain and agony
He prayed for me and you!

They laid my Saviour in the grave
And they placed guards all around;
But what are guards compared to Christ?
He arose without a sound.

Thank God, He triumphed over death
And rose to live again;
Some day we'll be with Him
In a world that's free from pain.

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line

Nature Rejoices

There's a song in every treetop
In each flower's face a prayer
A tribute in each raindrop
To the Father's loving care!

God made the lily white
Majestic dahlia tall
The daisy to stand upright
Gracing the garden wall.

Wisteria and clematis vines —
How they perfume the air —
In lazy breezes entwine
Gentle as a prayer.

While nature still rejoices
Dear Father, take we pray,
Our hearts, our hands, and voices
On this glad Easter Day!

—Toni Pickett
McComb

Good Friday

I added timber to the cross, my Lord to crucify;
I drove the nails through hands and feet, and left Him there to die.

My hands did weave the crown of thorns to place upon his brow
The crown that bruised His tender flesh — could I but lift it now.

For this He gave His life for me in agony and pain — that I might live —
And through His death might find eternal gain.

—Shirley Voyles, Corinth



(Home Board Photo)

Resurrection Message

Although winter attempts
to prove her superior status
by blustery winds
and unseasonable cold,
the yearly miracle
of spring happens.

The earth highlights the new
with a lift of color
in the daffodil's yellow,
wisteria's lavender-blue,
tulips painted pink,
the emerald of grass blades.

Against leafless branches
the dogwood flowers pure white,
while maples redden
on the hills.

Sweet music from songbirds
floats on the air.

As I witness renewal
in the world of nature,
I stand in awe
of God's handiwork,
and thankful for His love,
I am reassured
by the words
an angel spoke
to Mary Magdalene
the first Easter morning,

"He is not here,
for he is risen."

—Eunice Barnes
Pascagoula

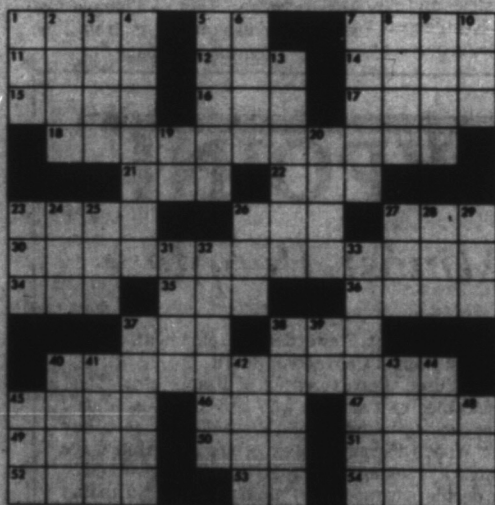
Rain-Soaked Church Caves In, In Brazil

ALAGOINHAS, Bahia, Brazil (BP) — A Baptist church in the rain-soaked and flooded state of Bahia, Brazil, caved in on 60 people participating in a Sunday evening training session, injuring 21 — none seriously — and hospitalizing 14.

Rains, which have not let up in more than a month, apparently saturated the building tiles of Second Baptist Church in Alagoas, Bahia, causing the 12-by-20-meter building to collapse, March 9. No Southern Baptist missionaries work in Alagoas.

Pews, a pump organ and most other items in the church were destroyed — everything but the pulpit, said Jerry Smyth, Southern Baptist missionary to North Brazil, in a March 12 telephone call to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Smyth added that 200 people would have been present had the building caved in during the worship hour. Following the collapse, the congregation held a service in the rain, giving thanks to God for sparing lives.



52 Hammer part
53 Canadian province:
abbr.
54 "the — of the world"
(1 Cor. 10)

DOWN

1 "— in the Father"
(John 14)
2 "pleasure to —"
(2 Pet. 2)
3 Aroma
4 Normal
5 Recorder
(2 Kl. 18:37)
6 Morocco inhabitant
7 "we shall be — by
his life" (Rom. 8)
8 Hebrew month
9 The light
(Rev. 21:23)
10 So-called sixth sense
12 They were gold
(Rev. 4:4)
19 Each: abbr.
20 Sell
23 Filthy place
24 Exclamation
25 Corded fabric
26 "can — to his
stature" (Luke 13)
27 Golfer's goal
28 Philippine aborigine
29 Biblical pronoun
31 Holy Roman
emperor
32 "Sheba and —"
(Ezek. 27:12)
33 Letter
37 He was stoned
(John 7:24-26)
38 Listens to
39 Article
40 Reign
41 Suffix for kitchen
42 Design
43 Ireland
44 God quickens them
(Rom. 4:17)
45 Talk, mod style
46 Traces: abbr.

ACROSS

1 Kind of gate
(Acts 12:10)
5 Morning: abbr.
7 "the years of the —
thereof" (Lev. 25:27)
11 Verdi opera
12 Greek philosopher:
abbr.
14 Feminine name:
pom.
15 Court, of a kind
16 Greek verb tense:
abbr.
17 Shoe part
18 "according to the —"
(2 Pet. 2)
21 Student yell
22 Calendar abbr.
23 She obeyed Abraham
(1 Pet. 3:6)

26 Massachusetts cape
27 It was empty
(Gen. 37:34)
28 "ye do show —"
(1 Cor. 11)
29 Caroline Island
30 Gamin
31 "I — for them"
(John 17)
32 A Mideastern people
33 Border town
(Gen. 12:8)
34 "shall be — at the
resurrection" (Lk. 14)
35 Woman of Moab
(Ruth 1:4)
36 Pub drink
37 Waste allowance
38 Hindu red dye
39 Possessed
40 "for he is a —"
(John 8)

CRYPTOVERSE

O A H F G P H J I Z S Z Q T N A Y Z Q A
U P U Z V H I

Today's Cryptoverse Clue: F equals A

(Answers on page 7)

Four Women Interviewed At The WMU Convention

(Continued from page 5)

24-Aug. 18, new members have been enrolled in Sunday School and people have been saved through the ministry of the Napierville Church, and the church has had many visitors.

"If the Lord sends me somewhere this year, I will go," she declared. "If he does not send me, I plan to send a couple of people to a needy area."

California

Juanita Schilling said that 12 men, five women, and two teen-age boys went from Simpson County to Sacramento, Calif., for a building project at the Immanuel Baptist Church. She was one of the women.

Simpson Countians began a fund for MOM, Money On Missions. Then the home mission study last year was on California; Mrs. Schilling taught the book in nine churches, explaining how each church could be a part of the mission project, by sending its members or helping to send others.

In the early mornings in California the men worked on the Immanuel building; the women fixed coffee, picked up lumber scraps, and nailed paneling. In late morning the women taught Vacation Bible School. At night the women met with the California Baptist Women, or went visiting with Immanuel members.

"I feel any woman who can arrange to give of her time and finances in such a way would receive a greater blessing," Mrs. Schilling said. Her husband, Glen, Simpson director of missions, also went on the trip.

South Africa

Anona Stewart, of Coffeeville, wife of the pastor, Donnie Stewart, went to South Africa in November, 1978, on a mission sponsored by the state Stewardship department. Her husband led in stewardship studies at Beacon Bay Church, East London, and Roosevelt Park Church, Johannesburg.

Mrs. Stewart said, "I discovered how the South Africans live, how warm and loving they are — something of their culture. I learned more in three weeks than I could have learned from books here in a year. Because of the trip I can now share their needs with people here and we can pray more intelligently for them in their work."

At first she felt she could not go with

CLASSIFIED

Church soliciting donations of used property in black missionary work. Twenty 12' pews; three 8' pews; three 12-15 passenger vans; twenty-five children's chairs; two classroom trailers. Contact: St. Paul Outreach Baptist Church, 2005 Hutchinson, Tupelo, MS 38801. Phone 842-0457.

W. P. Davis' Sister Dies

Mrs. Ross Parker, sister of W. P. Davis, died March 28, after a long illness. Mrs. Parker, 74, lived at Ellistown. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 29 at 2 p.m. at the Ellistown Baptist Church, Blue Springs, where she was a member. Burial was at the Ellistown Cemetery.

Her family requested that any memorial gifts be made to the Building Fund of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson.

Southside Plans Sunrise Service

Easter Sunrise Services will be held at the Southside Church, Jackson, at 6 a.m., Sunday morning, April 6, on the ball field. The youth will present the drama "Easter Story" under the direction of Tim Sullivan, director of activities.

The pastor, Fred Fowler, will bring a message at 11 a.m. worship service, on "Celebrating the Resurrection."

The Sanctuary Choir will present the Easter Cantata "No Greater Love" by John W. Peterson on Sunday evening at 7 in the church auditorium. The Cantata combines narration with drama, solos, and full choir to tell the old, but new story of Jesus' Love. The choir will be under direction of Gene Rester, minister of music.

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Names In The News . . .



JAMES GIBSON, former pastor of Bay Springs Church, Porterville, Miss., has accepted the pastorate of King's Road Baptist Church, Toledo, Ohio. On Feb. 24, 1980, Bay Springs Church honored Pastor and Mrs. Gibson with a commissioning service. Curtis Dyer and Kermit Sharp were guest speakers; Mrs. J. H. Winscott and Belle Puckett were soloists.

The members of Bay Springs Church presented the Gibsons with a silver tea service and extended their best wishes as the Gibsons accepted the challenge of a new mission in Toledo. From left are: James Gibson; his wife Betty; their children Debbie, Mark, and Jim.



MINERAL WELLS CHURCH (DeSoto) held a reception March 5, to welcome the new pastor, GRIFF WALKER, and his family, and to express appreciation to three people in the church — MR. AND MRS. W. L. CHRISTIE and BILLY CUNNINGHAM. Cunningham presented a plaque to the surprised Christies, expressing the church's love for them and thanks for all the "little" things they do. He stated, "It is not unusual to find the Christies at the church several times a week doing odd jobs that many people take for granted or never even notice."

Cunningham was in turn surprised when MRS. GLADYS HENDERSON arose, and presented him with a plaque in appreciation for his leadership roles in the church. Coffee and cake were served. Three of the Christies' children, their sons-in-law, and several grandchildren were present. Left to right are Mr. Christie, Pastor Walker, Mrs. Christie, and Mr. Cunningham.



BENNY HILL (left) is shown receiving a certificate of license to preach from the Calvary Church, Cleveland. Bob Hill, right, is pastor of the church. Benny is married to the former Terry White of Pueblo, Colorado. They have three children. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hill of Pittsboro. His brother Paul, is the pastor of the South Nettleton Baptist Church, Nettleton. Benny and his family reside at 503 Harvard Street, Cleveland. He may be reached by calling 846-7770 or 846-6185.

Harold J. Purdy, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Madisonville, Ky., will assume duties as a faculty member and an associate in administration April 15 at Boyce Bible School, a division of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Dan and Libby Panter, missionaries to Togo, may be addressed at Mission Baptiste, BP 43, Tabligbo, Togo. He was born in Pascagoula. She is from Jackson.

PLAINVIEW, Texas (BP) — Roy C. McClung, president of Wayland Baptist College in Plainview since 1963, announced he will retire as soon as the college trustees can find and install a new president — as early as July 1 and no later than Jan. 1.

McClung, 62, was pastor of First Baptist Church, Plainview, a post he had held since 1958, when he became president of the school in 1963.

He was named president of the Wayland Foundation, the development arm of the college, and will continue to work for the college in that area.

James Travis, Mississippian, professor of Bible at Blue Mountain College, wrote the Sunday School lessons printed in the adult quarterly for April through June, 1980, on the Bible Book Study series. The quarterly was edited and printed at the Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention,



Travis
Nashville, TN.

God loves the cheerful giver. That is enough for me. I want no greater joy than to have God love me. — Henry Kumler, Jr.

Alabama Church Gives Check For Wahalak's New Building

John Merck, left, recently presented a check for \$2,500 to the Wahalak Church near Scooba. The check was from the First Baptist Church of Shiloh at Saraland, Ala., where Merck is pastor.

Presentation was made to Everett Connor, center, treasurer, and O. P. Moore, right, interim pastor at Wahalak Church.

This was the largest check Wahalak has yet received toward its building program. Shown in the background is a corner of the present building, in use by the Wahalak congregation, called "the little church in the wildwood."

Trinity Church, Vicksburg: April 7-13; services Mon.-Sat. at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday services at 10:40 a.m. and 7:10 p.m.; Ralph Webber of First Church, Vidalia, La., evangelist; Gary Shows of the Amite Baptist Church, Denham Springs, La., singer; Howard D. Smith, pastor.

Temple Church (Jackson Association): April 13-18; Sunday morning worship at 11; each night at 7:30; Louis Barner, pastor of Fulton Church, Fulton, Ala., evangelist; Don Womble, minister of music of Temple, leading music; Lee Hudson, pastor.

Harmony Church, near New Albany, (Union County): April 13-18; Ronnie Mitchell, Center Hill, Hamilton, evangelist; Tim Horton, music director; services at 7 nightly; Mike Smith, pastor.

Calvary Church, Newton, April 13-18; Sunday services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m.; music evangelist: Mrs. Nell Adams; preaching evangelist: Douglas White, First Church, Union; Henry Adams, pastor.

Shady Grove (Lincoln): April 11-13; services 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Stan Weatherford, pastor of Spring Hill Church in Copiah County, evangelist; Kenny White, minister of music at Shady Grove, music evangelist; Eddie Graves, pastor.

Gillsburg (Amite County): April 13-18; Thomas J. Delaughter, evangelist; music under direction of John Vernon, minister of music, Magnolia; Mon.-Fri. services 10:30 a.m., 7 p.m.; Joseph L. Small, pastor.

The things I tried to keep in my hands I have lost, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess. — Martin Luther



Revival Dates

Hernando Church: April 6-13; W. E. Corkern, pastor, preaching each evening at 7, April 6-8; Harold Peasley, pastor of Florida Baptist Church, Johannesburg, South Africa, to arrive April 9 and preach each morning at 10 and each evening at 7, April 9-13; special music by Buddy Edge, minister of music at Hernando, and his wife Debbie, the Joy Sound group from Mt. Zion Church, Independence, and the Hernando Baptist Choir.

Castlewoods Mission (Rankin): April 2-6; Elton Moore, pastor; Bernard Nail, Brandon, Baptist chaplain at Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield, former pastor in Louisiana and Mississippi, evangelist; Keith Fowlkes, a junior at Mississippi College and music director at Castlewoods Mission, leading the music; guest groups providing special music; weekday services at 7 p.m.; closing service Sunday at 11 a.m.

Bethlehem (Simpson): Apr. 9-11; 7 p.m.; George Lewis of Simpson County, evangelist; Lamar Howl, music director; Bob Stewart, pastor.

Dover, Del. (EP) — Amish and Mennonites residents from the rural community of Pearson's Corner won a quiet battle before the Delaware Alcoholic Beverage Commission against the licensing of a liquor store in the area. More than 100 of the Amish and Mennonites turned up at a hearing to oppose the application.

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"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth" (Psa. 141:3).

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Social Service Department Finds A Home

Beginning with the employment of our first social caseworker, many years ago, the offices and campus-work of The Village's Social Service Department has been conducted in crowded and inconvenient space, adjacent to our central business offices in the Administration Building, on the Jackson Campus. As the size of our agency and the scope of its ministry has grown, the size and space-needs of the Social Service Department have grown in equal measure. In addition to a full-time social caseworker on our Farrow Manor Campus in Tate County, we now require office and work accommodations on our Jackson Campus for six Social Service staff members and our retained firm of consulting psychologists. For a number of years, the staff, which offers the best in professional training and experience to the children and families requesting our assistance has operated from temporary space in a trailer, from converted store-rooms and from restricted Administration Building space.

Recently, a modern building, originally constructed in 1965 for a Village staff residence became available and was offered to Mrs. Nowlin, Director of our Social Service Department for use as the new "home" for her Department. On March 14, the entire Social Service Department moved to its new quarters directly across the Village street from Quarles Cottage on our Jackson Campus.

Mrs. Nowlin reports advantages of the new location to include: privacy and improved capacity for confidentiality, nearness to children and houseparent staff living in cottage life and the convenience of having the en-

tire Social Service staff together in the same building. According to Executive Director Nunnery the building chosen for these purposes is so well-suited until it has not been necessary to effect any building alterations or repairs except for the hanging of one door, the relocating of telephones and a minor heating change in one room.

The Social Service Department at The Children's Village is responsible for the most intimate and confidential details of our ministry. Their work, which requires special education, training and/or experience in professional areas, includes all matters pertaining to the admission of children to Village care; the release of children from Village care; transfer of children from one Village facility or from one type Village care to another; all relations with natural families of our children; all visiting habits of our children; counseling and treatment of children in their emotional needs and personal problems; all relations with Village psychologists and the final responsibility for filling all clothing, gift and other shopping needs of every Village ward.

Farrow Manor Campus —

Village young people who live on our Farrow Manor Campus in Tate County also enjoyed a "Spring break" from public school attendance during March. Like their companions on the Jackson Campus, they used the time for a combination of work, play, social and spiritual enrichment. Work centered around a general clean-up of campus grounds and the traditional, Village Spring cleaning in all households.

Boys and girls from the Farrow Manor Campus participated with young people from one of The Village's host churches in Tate County, Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Independence, at a "Monday-evening rap session," followed by a motion picture film at the church. The remainder of the week featured an evening out at a nearby restaurant, youth-led prayer meeting services and movies at the church, a "Rockathon" and a Saturday evening vocal concert presented by Bill and Carolyn Traylor of Nashville, Tennessee.

Byhalia Baptist Church hosted all of the boys and girls and staff from the

Happenings — Jackson Campus

Our own Primary Choir, including boys and girls from pre-school ages through the second grade, were guests of the BSU at Mississippi College on Monday, March 31, when they presented the program of the evening. The Choir's presentation, which included both sacred music and spirited, secular offerings, was well-received by the college group. After the meeting, the college hosts entertained their Village guests at a near-by Dairy Queen.

Village boys and girls, like all Mississippi children attending public schools, were free from classes for an entire week, beginning Monday, March 10. Despite torrential rains and generally unpleasant weather throughout the week, the young people on The Village's Jackson Campus were kept busy during the traditional "Spring Break." Activities during the week included:

• A carefully-planned, well-publicized and rigidly-supervised Spring house-cleaning, involving boys and girls of all ages and every cottage on the Jackson Campus. Under the direction of houseparents, assisted by Mr. Glaze and Mr. Lee from the Administration, all of the corners which are occasionally missed in daily housekeeping chores and the regular weekly clean-up received attention, and each cottage was subjected to rigid inspection.

New Albany Group Home

Farrow Manor Campus for an evening of fun in the recreational facilities of First Baptist Church in Holly Springs. Thanks to the interest and generosity of our Byhalia friends, all of the boys and girls on the Tate County Campus were able to skate, play games and participate in refreshments at the church.

G.A.'s from the Farrow Manor Campus, including Betty and Aileen Bates, Kelly Overby and Debbie Smith recently met other young people from Tate Association for an Associational G.A. meeting at Baddour Mental Retardation Center in Senatobia. Village G.A. girls on the Farrow Manor Campus eagerly plan for participation in G.A. camps during the summer of 1980.

Mike Spivey, one of our teen-aged boys living at the New Albany home, participated, on March 22 in an area practice tract meet. Mike finished first in the mile run, second in the 440, second in the 880 and was a member of the team finishing second in the relay race. Mike has distinguished himself in track for several years, winning medals in state-wide competition on

• A soccer clinic, providing instruction by Mark Stamps of Mississippi College for Village boys in grades 1-6. The sport has become quite popular on our Jackson Campus and during each recent year, The Village has fielded several teams in league play in the Jackson-Clinton area.

• Village girls of appropriate age were enrolled in a "Charm Clinic" directed by Mrs. Glaze and Miss Stone from our Department of Music and Mrs. Saucier from our Social Service Department. Instruction and direction in dress and grooming included the choice and care of clothing, the importance of cleanliness and personal appearance and the use of cosmetics in good taste was featured. Basic courtesies, simple etiquette and general "good manners" were also featured.

• On Wednesday, Mrs. Melody Tune, a Beauty Consultant with Merle Norman Cosmetics, conducted a make-up clinic for all teen-age girls on the Jackson Campus. Mrs. Tune is a loyal friend of The Village, having been involved with children from our Jackson Campus for a number of years through her membership in First Baptist Church of Jackson, one of our host churches and through her participation in Vacation Bible School activities for Village children.

• Wednesday evening of "Spring Break Week" was highlighted by a "mini-lock-in" arranged; conducted and supervised by Mrs. Annette Hitt, our Christian Education Director. Village boys and girls in grades three through six were included in the feature which commenced at 5:00 o'clock with pizzas at a restaurant in Clinton. Returning to Hester Activities Building on the Jackson Campus, the evening was filled with games and refreshments, concluding with a motion picture film on the family and a discussion of its message.

several occasions against college and even adult competition.

Dell Fowler of our New Albany group has just celebrated her 10th birthday at a big party which was hosted by her housemother, Mrs. Betty Jackson. As a part of the celebration, Dell and her friends went to Skateland after enjoying cake and ice cream at our New Albany Home. Thanks to our friends from East Prentiss Baptist Church of New Site, Dell was able to celebrate again the very next day when the ladies from that church brought her a lovely birthday cake and a number of presents. These generous ladies also brought gifts for the New Albany Home and Easter clothing for Edgar, Dell's brother.



Village Young people moving to Dickerson Place pose with Executive Director Paul N. Nunnery before leaving the Jackson Campus.

Dickerson Place — Brookhaven

March 10, 1980 was an exciting day for everyone at The Children's Village and most especially for Mr. and Mrs. Shelton (Mike and Gloria) and the 17 boys and girls who left the Jackson Campus on that date, traveled to Lincoln County, and became the first residents of our new Children's Village facility, "DICKERSON PLACE," the recently opened group home of The Baptist Children's Village, located just off United States Highway No. 84, about 10 miles East of Brookhaven. The facility was acquired by deed from Our Town, Inc. in mid-December of 1979, and as previously reported, our staff has been busily engaged in completing the details of the transfer of ownership and in repairs and rehabilitation to the principal dwelling house.

A great deal of work remains to be done in order to bring the property to Village standards and, in general, fit it for use in keeping with Village policies and program. That work is continuing under the supervision of Mr. Shelton and Mr. Karl McGraw, the Village's Administrative Assistant for Property, assisted now by the older boys in residence at Dickerson Place.

Situated in a beautiful pine forest in East Lincoln County, Dickerson Place represents the first Village, residential facility in South Mississippi. The acquisition of this lovely and useful property not only expands our facilities and enables us to extend our mission service to additional numbers of children, but more importantly, affords Mississippi Baptists through their official child care agency, with a fourth and different kind of child care facility through which to meet the needs of neglected and dependent Mississippi children more professionally and with greater compassion. At its regular, March 1980 meeting, the Board of Trustees, enthusiastically accepted and adopted the recommen-

dation of Executive Director Paul N. Nunnery to name the facility so as to honor Mrs. Earl Dickerson, our neighbor in Lincoln County, and her deceased husband and son.

Everyone at The Children's Village has been humbled and gratified by the gracious and hospitable reception accorded our new residents, especially the kindnesses of Mrs. Dickerson and friends at Fair River Baptist Church, which has been selected as the host church for our children and staff living at Dickerson Place. On Sunday afternoon, March 30, The Village population in Lincoln County was formally and officially welcomed at a special afternoon service at Fair River Baptist Church, widely attended by interested persons in the area. The service featured remarks by Executive Director Nunnery and special music by "The Villagers" a choral group from the Department of Music on The Village's Jackson Campus.

As in the case of all Village properties and facilities, all of the financing of the Lincoln County operation, and all of the physical needs of its residents will be furnished from the central offices and Supply Department of The Baptist Children's Village, located on its Jackson Campus. Individuals and groups who may be interested in designating support or assistance for Dickerson Place and its children, or becoming better acquainted with its operation are cordially invited to write or telephone Executive Director Nunnery at his Jackson address, which is Box 11306, Jackson, Mississippi, 39213. Telephone Number 922-2242. Mrs. Alabel Liles, a Village social caseworker, also with offices on the Jackson Campus at the same address, has been assigned to Dickerson Place and will arrange and supervise the visiting habits of the children in residence there.

Presenting Our Staff

Rhudy Cole, left, is Transportation and Houseparent on Jackson Campus, since June, 1979.

Carol Cole, right, is Housemother on the Jackson Campus, since June, 1979.

Just For The Record . . .

Temple Church of Petal (Lebanon Association) observed Home Missions day in Sunday School March 16. The church's Annie Armstrong goal was \$800. They gave \$1,186.88. Guest speaker for the morning service was Paul Vandercook, director of language ministries for Jackson and Gulf Coast Associations. Al Green is pastor.

Griff Walker has been called as pastor of the Mineral Wells Baptist Church in Mineral Wells, Miss. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sonnie W. Walker, and is engaged to be married to Susan Cole May 23, 1980. Miss Cole is the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Cecil Cole of Strayhorn. Walker is a student at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

Rick Forbus has assumed the responsibilities of minister of music at West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo. He graduated from Greenville High School, attended Mississippi College, and graduated from Delta State University and New Orleans Seminary. He, his wife, the former Nancy Burkett, and their son, MacLane, moved to Tupelo from Port Sulphur, La., where Forbus served as minister of music at Port Sulphur Church.

Liberty Church, Liberty, has called James S. Young as minister of music and youth. Young, a native of Batesville, is a graduate of Mississippi Southern University with a degree in music. He moved from Laurel where he served part time at Harmony Church. He and his wife Fran have three daughters. Charles Holifield is the Liberty pastor.

Richmond, Va. — Thirty South African Baptist pastors will preach revivals in North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Alabama during March and early April.

"Alleluia: A Praise Gathering for Believers," written and arranged by Bill and Gloria Galtner and Ron Huff will be performed by choir members from Jayess, Providence and Topeka Churches on Easter Sunday morning, April 6, at 11 a.m. at the Topeka Church. The public is invited, according to Mike Mitchell, pastor.

Martin Hayden has assumed the pastorate of the Goodwater Church, Magee. A graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary, he moved to Magee from Pleasant Home Church, Laurel. He and his wife Eva have two children, Marty and Angie.

"Baptist Priest" Discovered In Refugee Camp

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Although Baptists have been known to handle almost any of the Lord's work, Southern Baptist missionary Ray Frye was startled to discover a "Baptist priest" in one of the refugee camps in Malaysia.

Frye, who is disaster relief coordinator for the Malaysia mission, and missionaries Bill and Thelma Love were visiting with some of the refugees when they casually asked if anyone knew of any Baptists in the camp. One refugee said a "Baptist priest" had just arrived.

The "priest" turned out to be Pastor Dang Minh Lanh, who had been deputy pastor under former missionary to Vietnam Herman Hays.

Dang and 44 others reached Malaysia in a boat they had named "C. T. Baptist" so no one would mistake it for a communist boat. The escape, which had been planned for more than two years, came after Dang was accused of being a CIA agent because of his friendship with American missionaries who also had been labeled CIA agents. Dang eventually was sent to a work farm.

He and his family hope to go to southern California where his sister lives.

The Association of Baptist Chaplains met in annual session, March 9-13, St. Louis, Mo. This group is composed of Southern Baptist ministers serving as chaplains in hospitals, other institutions, and industry. The chaplains meet in conjunction with the American Protestant Hospital Association, College of Chaplains. The next meeting is scheduled for San Antonio, Texas, March, 1981.

The officers for this group are as follows: president - Charles W. Burrows, Lakeland, Fla.; president-elect - Dan McEver, Evansville, Ind.; vice president - Howard Linton, San Antonio, Tex.; and secretary-treasurer - Bill Bailey, Lexington, Ky.

Brookhaven Finds Way To Minister To Transients

Eugene Roberts, director of missions for Lincoln and Copiah Counties, reported in his associational bulletin the way that Brookhaven residents are ministering to transients.

He said, "Any transient asking for help with meals or transportation, or lodging, is referred to the Brookhaven Police Department. Vouchers are issued by the Police Department to persons requesting aid. These vouchers are accepted by local restaurants; the vouchers are cashed from a fund provided by the Salvation Army."

If money be not thy servant, it will be thy master. — Pierre Charron

Grays Creek Honors Roger Johns On His 20th Year As Its Pastor



Grays Creek Church in "Jaybird Hollow" near Hernando in DeSoto Association, had a special celebration for the pastor's 20th anniversary with the church, Wednesday night, Feb. 22.

One might have thought upon arriving at the church that an old-fashioned revival was in progress, for all parking areas were overflowing. Inside the educational portion of the church, scores of people offered "standing room only" to make this an anniversary to remember for Pastor Roger F. Johns and his family.

The dining area was decorated by the church members. A group of young men from the church entertained the crowd with music and songs. A table, running the entire length of the room, was filled with home cooked food.

Not only were church members present, but friends from throughout the county were on hand to share the dinner with the pastor, his wife, and their five children.

Before the celebration, the pastor was given a new suit and a pair of



The Johnses

shoes of his choice, by the Anniversary Committee. At the celebration he was given a new all-weather coat, and the family was presented with a console color TV set and a vacuum cleaner.

After expressing his thanks and giving a look back over the years as a country preacher in "Jaybird Hollow," he laughingly told the crowd that in his new suit he would preach his "trial sermon" the next Sunday morning.

Devotional

The Right Priorities

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart (Psalms 37:4).

By Ruby K. Poole, Macon, MS.

I guess most every young girl has a secret desire to be Miss America. It has always amazed me how the judges could pick just one of those 50 gorgeous girls to represent our country.

My husband and I and some good friends saw and heard "our own" Miss America, Cheryl Prewitt from Ackerman, Mississippi, when we attended a banquet given in her honor at Mississippi State University. She was gracious, charming, beautiful, and talented. But what overwhelmed me about her was the fact that she spoke so freely of her faith in God. Her testimony of God's grace and mercy renewed my hope that she would be an inspiration to the young people of America.

She told of knowing that God was going to allow her to become Miss America, and the reason was so she could be a witness everywhere she went. Praise the Lord for such a young person with her priorities in the right perspective.

A scripture verse came to my husband as we listened to her testimony which says: For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11 TLB). After her performance we had an opportunity to talk with her and she shared that scripture with her.

Every person, young and old, can claim that promise. But isn't it great that Miss America has already claimed the promises of God for her life?

Rhodesian Missionaries Hope Work Can Expand

GWELO, Rhodesia (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries in Rhodesia are hopeful of continuing ministry in the wake of elections Feb. 27-29 which named Robert Mugabe to head a new majority government.

The elections were the fruit of a peace settlement ironed out in three months of talks in London aimed at ending a seven-year guerrilla war for majority control of the country.

Ralph L. Rummage, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Rhodesia, said March 3 that missionaries, whose travel had been restricted by the war, hope to work again in all areas of the country.

"We're here for one reason — to preach the gospel and make disciples, and we're going to leave the political aspirations of the new leaders to them. Whatever develops in the country, we will be law-abiding residents," he said. "We will be happy to continue to be here to preach the gospel."

According to news reports, Mugabe's party captured 57 of the 100 seats in the national assembly and the party of Joshua Nkomo, another leader in the patriotic front guerrilla force, took 20 seats. The remaining three black seats went to the party of United Methodist Bishop Abel Muzorewa, prime minister of the interim bi-racial government that pre-

ceded the peace agreement. In earlier elections, the party of former Prime Minister Ian Smith won the 20 seats reserved for whites.

The name of the country, which has been considered the British Colony Rhodesia since the December signing of a cease-fire agreement, is expected to become Zimbabwe, the name preferred by black nationalists, when the new government takes office sometime around the first of April.

Rummage said the greatest need of Baptist missionaries and Rhodesian Baptists at this time is prayer. "Have Baptists pray that our pastors here will give themselves totally to the preaching of the gospel and not involved themselves in any activities that would keep them from preaching," he said. He also asked prayer for missionaries as they project future work.

The mission also has a critical need for new missionary personnel, especially church development consultants who would travel in a given area, beginning and strengthening churches, said Rummage. The mission has submitted 12 personnel requests to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The personnel shortage, he said, has limited the mission's relief work to helping individuals through local churches.

Bible Book Series

The Resurrection Of Jesus

By J. Roy McComb,
Pastor, First, Columbia
Luke 24:1-53

The resurrection of Jesus gave his disciples hope, joy, peace, confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose. The resurrection of Jesus is perhaps the greatest single event in human history. The resurrection is the seal and guarantee that He was indeed the Messiah and that He can indeed guarantee immortality to his followers. For the Christian the resurrection is a daily hope not just something to cling to or turn to in the event of death. Every Sunday should be an exciting day for the believers since it is the day of the resurrection.

I. The Evidence Of The Empty Tomb

On Sunday some women with perfumes start for the burial site of Jesus. When they arrive at the tomb where Jesus was placed before the Passover, they find that the stone is rolled away. It has well been said that the stone was not moved so that Jesus could get out but so that his disciples could get in and see that He had come out.

The stone being moved from the opening of the tomb was concern for these women. While they wondered about this, two men in shining clothing appeared. This frightened the women, as it would have anyone. They fell to the ground in fear and confusion.

Luke records these men asking one of the most profound questions that could be posed — "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" He is not here. "He has risen." "Remember what He has told you while He was still with you in Galilee."

He had told them that He had to be delivered into the hands of sinful men and crucified and on the third day be raised again.

After this experience the women left the tomb immediately and returned to the eleven, bearing this new message of eternal hope. In verse 11 the disciples react in a very strange and odd fashion, and yet perhaps not so strange and odd either. They say the words seem to them like nonsense. We probably would have reacted in about the same way had we been present with the disciples when the news came that the body of Jesus was no longer in the tomb. Nevertheless, Peter went to the tomb to try to confirm the story or disconfirm it. When he arrived at the tomb he saw the evidence that indeed

Jesus had been in the tomb. There were the strips of linen that had been used to wrap his body. Yet the body was indeed missing. The empty tomb is one of the greatest and most profound evidences of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The empty tomb leads to a missing body. The body of Jesus Christ is to be found nowhere in this earth.

II. Christ Appears To Two Disciples On The Road To Emmaus

The appearance of Jesus to Cleopas and his companion occurred on the same day, that is, on Sunday. This event at the beginning represents an Easter tragedy. Yet it is repeated weekly today. The two disciples are walking by themselves to Emmaus on Sunday, the first day of the week; they are discussing, as they walk along, the crucifixion of Jesus. Their faith is gone. They thought that He would be the one who would deliver Israel. Yet He has been crucified as a common criminal. They are depressed and downcast. They are like many today. They are not aware of the significance of the Lord's day, the day of resurrection. They go about their business doing other things while the greatest event in history passes them by. They continue down the road of life in a downcast, downtrodden fashion.

Fortunately these two were in for one of the greatest experiences perhaps of their lives. Jesus joins them as they walk along. He inquires as to their problem, "Why are they sad?" They respond by asking him where he has been.

They still have not remembered and believed the words of Jesus and the words of the prophets. Jesus replies with a rebuke. Then with instruction concerning the teachings of Moses, He explains what the scriptures have said concerning him.

When you take into account the Old Testament, you can quickly see Jesus there. By way of example, (1) Christ was the substance of every Old Testament sacrifice. (2) Christ was the true deliverer and king. (3) Christ was the coming prophet greater than Moses. (4) Christ was the true seed of the woman who was to bruise the serpent's head. (5) Christ was the true Shiloh to whom the people were to be gathered. (6) Christ was the true scapegoat. (7) Christ was the true brazen serpent. (8) Christ was the true

lamb to which every daily offering pointed. (9) Christ was the true high priest of whom every descendant of Aaron was a figure. On and on one could go, but it seems that these are some of the things that Jesus surely called to their attention.

Following these instructions they arrived at the village where they were to stay. They were moved by what they had been told and yet they were not aware of the one telling them. They invited him to stay with them. When He went to the table with them He broke bread, gave thanks and then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.

Perhaps there is no relationship, but it seems so significant to this writer that this is the very same as the event in which He had previously engaged with the disciples, that we know as the Last Supper.

Following this, Jesus disappeared. The disciples immediately arose, returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven. They returned to Jerusalem to bring the message of the resurrection. However, the eleven had already found the truth for they said, "It is true." The Lord has risen and appeared to Simon. Then the two disciples who had been going to Emmaus related their encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus has been extremely active on this day of resurrection. He has been busy meeting his disciples and meeting their needs in this dark hour in their lives.

III. Jesus Appears To The Disciples

Jesus appears in the midst of them. He greets them with that famous greeting of "peace." Of course they are startled and frightened, thinking that they see a ghost. It is so interesting that at one point they can be excited about the truth of his resurrection; yet, when He appears to them they lapse into some sort of fearful expectation that they are seeing some sort of ghost. They have doubts. Jesus rebukes them and then invites them to look at His hands and His feet. He invites them to touch them. He wants to give them evidence that He is not a ghost but that the body they see is his body.

He asks for food to eat. They give him a piece of broiled fish. He takes it and eats it in their presence. Here is one of the most profound evidences of the resurrection.

At this point apparently, their doubt

Life and Work Lesson

The Gospel Of Resurrection

By Tommy Tutor, Pastor
First, Holly Springs
1 Corinthians 15:1-5, 12-20

Easter refers to an annual Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, held on the first Sunday after the date of the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21. 1 Corinthians 15 is an important passage, for it contains the earliest extended written account of the resurrection of Jesus. Paul insisted on the resurrection of Christ in a transformed body and on the resurrection of believers in a transformed body.

One of the Corinthian doctrinal errors was the denial of the resurrection. We are, on the one hand, pointed to the rationalism of the pagan Greeks who simply refused to accept the resurrection. We are, on the other hand, pointed to the popular view that the bodies of the dead were thought to arise in their material state. Between these two extremes Paul is to steer his course. Paul presents a resurrection which produces transformed bodies. He is in agreement with all the other Biblical writers who in one grand chorus proclaim the actual resurrection of the physical body that is deposited in the grave in a transformed state.

I. The Gospel Message Of Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-5)

The writer starts with a reminder of the pertinent gospel facts on which the faith of the Corinthians rests. He had preached these facts of the gospel to these believers, and they had accepted these facts. The "gospel" was the glad tidings of redemption, salvation. This gospel consisted of the facts of the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Upon these facts they had received Christ as Savior.

Now even as you are saved by these facts of the gospel, you are to "stand" in them. They were to have a continual belief, faith in these facts, not merely memory, of this word, a spiritual rather than an intellectual hold on it. The proposition is, that their holding it is not a condition of his having preached the Word, but of their being saved by it. If you refuse a part of the facts of the gospel, then you have believed in vain.

Apart from Christ's life the writer gave emphasis to the following: (1) Christ died for our sins — The death of Christ is of utmost importance to our salvation, atonement. (2) Jesus was buried — This statement emphasized that Jesus really died, life separated from his body. (3) Christ was raised — The perfect tense of "raised" emphasizes that Christ was raised and remains raised from the dead, conquered the grave. (4) Christ appeared to Peter and the twelve — This fact emphasized that witnesses had seen Christ. Many of these witnesses were still alive. Thus the gospel message received and preached by Paul gave a primary place to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

II. The Central Role Of The Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

The writer preached a gospel of a resurrected, living Christ. Belief in the resurrection of Christ and the more general belief in the resurrection of the dead were inescapably tied together.

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ could not have been raised. Now the early preaching of the apostles centered on the death and re-

surrection of Christ. If Christ was not raised, then there is no gospel. Without the resurrection there is no claim of victory over death, no assurance of redemption through Christ, no vindication of Christ's lordship, and no assurance that the events of the endtime had begun. If Christ was not raised, the apostolic preaching would have to be rejected. God is being misrepresented, and those who have died would have perished. If Christ was not raised, the Corinthian's faith was in vain. They were still in their sins. There is no gospel without the resurrection. The resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

Human reason often objects to the doctrine of the resurrection and in one way or another attempts to show that it cannot be true. There were such doubts based on human reason in Corinth, possibly in the church, which denied the resurrection just as some men today deny that miracles happen or ever did happen.

Make Jesus what you will, if he failed to rise from the dead he is useless, for he cannot free us from our sin, if he failed to conquer the last enemy, the grave. Faith is empty when the Word to which it clings is untrue. This simply means that if there was no resurrection, there is no redemption, no reconciliation, no justification, and no everlasting life to be had in Christ.

III. Paul's Affirmation Of The Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Christians need not despair. Paul gives the affirmation of the resurrection: Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the firstfruits of the harvest. "Firstfruits" were the beginning of the harvest. This was regarded as a pledge of the rest of the harvest to follow. Therefore, Christ's resurrection is the beginning and the pledge of God to all believers that death can be conquered and everlasting life is available in Christ. He is this, because, while others before him had risen only to succumb to death again, Christ's resurrection from the grave was permanent victory over it.

The gospel has been vindicated. Paul has effectively put to death the Corinthian error concerning the resurrection. All depends on the resurrected Christ. He now comes to affirm this. God's plan has been implemented.

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